

**Mayor's Night Out
Northside Responses
May 25, 2005
Fremont Elementary School**

Resident #1:

How does one properly report loud music?

Title 7 of the Riverside Municipal Code provides a useful tactic for effective enforcement of noise regulations without involving neighbors reporting the incident. The City Attorney prepared a training bulletin for the Police Department to update training to each officer during roll call pertaining to the use and enforcement of the Riverside Municipal Code that allows officers to issue citations for loud music without identifying the reporting person.

Additionally, the Riverside Police Communications Division will receive the update training so they may be better directed as to how to enter the calls for service and explain procedures to persons calling regarding loud music. City Attorney Susan Wilson has forwarded the information to Supervising Deputy City Attorney Jeb Brown, who will author a training bulletin and initialize the training. For more information, contact Riverside Police Area North Commander Lt. Chuck Griffitts at (951) 351-6045.

Resident #2:

a) Softball and other activities for children are important but the fees at Reid Park Little League are being raised and some parents cannot afford it.

As part of the budget process, the Park and Recreation Department was asked to increase revenue to help cover a portion of facility maintenance costs. Since most of the revenue is generated through fees, the City was looking into the possibility of imposing a \$5 per child charge for youth sports leagues that utilize lights. This proposal has been removed from consideration since the Northside Mayor's Night Out meeting. For more information, contact Park and Recreation Director Ralph Nuñez at (951) 826-2055.

b) People drive fast on Columbia Avenue. Can speed humps be installed to slow down traffic?

Speed humps can only be installed on residential streets. Columbia Avenue is designated as an arterial and is not eligible for speed humps. If you have further questions, you may call Traffic Engineer Fran Dunajski at 826-5366.

Speed humps cannot be placed in streets that are major routes for emergency vehicles. Speed humps slow down response times and may even cause equipment damage. If you have any further questions please contact Deputy Fire Chief, Operations, Dave Austin at (951) 826-5334.

Resident #3:

a) There is a lot of brush around the resident's home and they are worried the fire hazard. Who is going to trim all the bushes?

The site in question, on Arthur Avenue, was found to be City property, and Public Works weed abatement crews were assigned to correct the problem. For more information, contact Street Maintenance at (951) 826-6125.

b) Resident is having a problem with loud music in the neighborhood and getting the police to respond. What is the proper procedure to report such noise?

Please see the response to Resident #1

c) Police need to patrol the neighborhood more than they are currently doing.

Police officers generally go to where the problems are. Officer patrols often follow patterns of calls for service. Officers respond to radio calls and when they have “free” or discretionary time, they are required to address problems within their area of responsibility. If there is a problem in a certain neighborhood, please call the area commander for that area, so he may assign the beat officer to patrol and address these concerns. For more information, contact Riverside Police Area North Commander Lt. Chuck Griffiths at (951) 351-6045.

c) Too many cars speed on Columbia. What can be done to slow traffic down?

Riverside Police will assign the North Area motor officers to monitor the location and place the speed board at the location to help remind persons utilizing the street that they may be driving faster than they realize and to help them learn the speed limit.

You may call supervisors and tell them what problems you are experiencing and they may assign a traffic car, motorcycle or move the speed board to the area to educate and or issue citations to the violators. Please call Traffic Sergeant Duane Beckman at (951) 826-5237, Sergeant Don Tauli at (951) 826-5576 or their Lieutenant, Ken Carpenter at (951) 351-6249.

d) Resident just found out there is a predator in their neighborhood and wants to know what they can do about it to protect the children they take care of in their homes.

Anyone that has access to the Internet via the computer can access the web site that lists the registered sex offenders, their descriptions, in most cases their photograph, home address and the offense that they committed to be required to be registered under Section 290 of the Penal Code. The web site is www.meganslaw.ca.gov. As far as what to do to protect your children, this is the first step: knowledge to power. Know who is living in your neighborhood and tell your other neighbors.

Although not encouraged or endorsed by the police department, there have been recent news stories wherein neighbors band together and hold rallies demonstrating against the registered sex offenders living in their area. Oftentimes this provides enough pressure on the person that they move from the area. In the 92501 zip code, there are 81 registered sex offenders. Visit the website and see who is in our neighborhood. For more information, contact Riverside Police Area North Commander Lt. Chuck Griffiths at (951) 351-6045.

Resident #4:

Area near resident’s home was originally zoned residential but is now zoned industrial and they are concerned about the affects this will have on the neighborhood.

A majority of the site in question was actually zoned residential but designated for industrial uses on the General Plan. Following a public hearing, City Council approved rezoning and a General Plan amendment June 21 to allow Bonanni Development to build a 76-unit single family residential subdivision on this site at the 4300-block of Alamo Street. For more information, contact North Team Senior Planner Steve Hayes at (951) 826-5775.

Resident #5:

What is going on with the proposed development at Chase Road and La Cadena by Walker Homes and proposed reduction of the lot sizes?

No formal application for this project has been submitted to the City.

Resident #6:

Inform members about the Historic Resources Survey of a portion of the Northside neighborhood.

Consultant Jennifer Mermilliod is conducting a Historic Resources Survey in portions of the City north of downtown, between First Street and Strong Street. This grant-funded project by the California Office of Historic Preservation is being conducted between October 2004 and September 2005 to identify structures that may be eligible for historic designation. If you have a property within the stated boundaries you believe may be of interest to the survey, please contact Jennifer Mermilliod on her cell phone at (951) 233-6897 or call Planning Department Historic Preservation Specialist Janet Hansen at (951) 826-5463.

Resident #7:

a) There are some homeless around the old Shell Gas Station, and where Judy's Deli used to be, who worry residents. What can be done about them?

The fire at Judy's is still under investigation and officers as recently as June 1 have been in the area and contacted several transients near the area in question. One was a parolee at large, meaning he was out on parole but had not followed the rules so his parole officer placed a hold on him. Several others have moved to the area after being displaced from the Fairmount Park area. Please call the police when transients are seen trespassing where they do not belong. For more information, contact Riverside Police Area North Commander Lt. Chuck Griffitts at (951) 351-6045.

b) There are a lot of people who speed in the neighborhood. How can the neighborhood get patrol bikes to patrol the neighborhood more often?

Please see the response to Resident 3, c

Resident #8:

Northside needs a grocery store.

Development staff contacted the two major grocery chains regarding the feasibility of locating a grocery store on the Northside. The interest exists with the two major chains, which are watching the area as residential roof tops are increasing. Staff will keep in contact with the companies so that when they are ready the City can move quickly to facilitate construction. For more information, contact Business Attraction Coordinator Cindie Doke at (951) 826-5419.

Resident #9:

What is being done about the contractors tearing up owner yards and not cleaning it up?

The department is not aware of any specific complaints in this regard. If this relates to site grading or drainage, then concerns could be forwarded to the Public Works Department inspectors for analysis. For other damage, the Police Department could be contacted and a report filed. For more information, call Deputy Public Works Director Tom Boyd at (951) 826-5575.

Resident #10:

a) Many infrastructure and housing projects are underway, helping neighborhood getting from where we were to where we hope to be. Building trail from Market Street to the county line, can we encourage San Bernardino County to build the bicycle trail so riders won't have to go onto city streets.

The Mayor and City Council are encouraging residents and business to utilize alternative forms of transportation, such as walking, biking and mass transit. To help in this effort, the City Council has authorized the hiring of a Trails and Transportation Coordinator to assist in efforts like working with the County of San Bernardino to complete the trail system and to obtain grant funding for projects. If you have further questions, you may call Deputy Public Works Director Tom Boyd at (951) 826-5575.

Park and Recreation is currently working with the Riverside County Parks District, as well as other municipalities and agencies, on the Santa Ana River Master Plan, which will incorporate multi-use, multi-functional trails across jurisdictional boundary lines. For further information, please contact Park and Recreation Director Ralph Nuñez at (951) 826-2055.

b) At Rivera and the Riverbed, it was requested the developer install a multipurpose trail but it's limited to his development. Resident wants Park & Recreation to work with County Flood Control to make a trail on the top of the levee.

This request falls outside of our Park Department's responsibilities. Primary obligation for the levee is handled by the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. For more information, contact the Flood Control District at (951) 955-1200. The Park and Recreation Department is currently working with other agencies to develop multi-functional trails throughout the City. For further information, please contact Park and Recreation Director Ralph Nuñez at (951) 826-2055.

- c) **Area between Market and the River bridge, treacherous for pedestrians and cyclists; the City collected money from developers, now the City needs to write the check and get that done.**

Actually, the City does not have a check in hand at this point. The question refers to the north side of Market Street between the Santa Ana River and Rivera. The City has conditioned a residential developer adjacent to Market Street to make a cash deposit in lieu of construction of improvements to Market Street. The deposit is required before the Tract Map records. The map has not yet been submitted for recordation and therefore the funds have not been deposited. Staff are looking at the possibility of interim improvements. For more information, contact Deputy Public Works Director Tom Boyd at (951) 826-5575.

- d) **The Northside Improvement Association is working very hard with developers in Northside trying to improve the quality of housing and infrastructure. Resident suggests six-foot block walls at edge of developments for homeowners who don't want to move. New school on Strong St., taking over a development, exert some pressure on RUSD that they honor the developer promises that the neighbors will be able to have the block wall.**

This concern is regarding the proposed Patricia Beatty Elementary School, which is in the early planning stages. The Riverside Unified School District has been working with neighbors and have held several community meetings regarding this project. The school has not yet been designed and the property has not yet been purchased. RUSD is giving serious consideration to the community's input; plans currently include the brick wall in the design. For more information, contact RUSD Assistant Superintendent for Operations Dr. Kirk Lewis at (951) 788-7134.

- e) **There is a problem with the new developer at Rivera Estates. A very congenial development company sold to another firm, now third firm. The neighborhood is left with empty promises and litter. KB Homes very slow to respond to the neighborhood. Promises made by previous developer should be honored by new successors.**

In this case, KB Home management was unaware of a specific agreement made with two existing homeowners by Innovative, the previous developer. While not a party to the agreement, KB did take initiative to contact Innovative and help arrange resolution of this issue.

When a new developer acquires a project, the new developer is required to comply with the conditions of approval that were applied to these development projects. Additionally, a developer is required to comply with the provisions of the Municipal Code during construction. For more information, contact North Team Senior Planner Steve Hayes at (951) 826-5775.

Resident #11:

The Northside needs a skate board park.

The Northside is primarily served by Reid Park. The Reid Park Master Plan, which was recently reconfirmed as addressing the community's needs, does not include a skate park. The last phase of construction, based on the approved master plan, is expected to begin prior to the end of this year. A skate park is featured at Hunt Park, at the corner of Jackson and Garfield, in the Ramona neighborhood. The City does not currently have any funding allocated for an additional skate park. For more information, call Park and Recreation Director Ralph Nuñez at (951) 826-2055.

Resident #12:

What kind of data is there about the quality of the air and smog level in the Riverside area?

The South Coast Air Quality Management District, which compiles air quality data for Southern California, including Riverside. The AQMD was created in 1947 to combat air pollution in Los Angeles; Riverside and San Bernardino counties were added in 1957. During the past 25 years, ozone pollution in the Southland has decreased to less than half the level recorded in 1981; days exceeding federal standards have decreased from a high of more than 200 days in 1977 to about 60 days in 2003, the most recent data year. The AQMD is “one of the world’s regulatory success stories,” said Mayor Loveridge, a member of the agency’s board, “yet we still have much work to do.” For more information and history on the Internet, please see the AQMD website:

<http://www.aqmd.gov/smog/index.html>

(Link to the general air quality page)

<http://www.aqmd.gov/smog/o3hist-trend.pdf>

(Link to the trend chart showing air quality improvement 1976-2003) For more information, contact AQMD Senior Meteorologist Joe Cassmassi at (909) 396-3155

Resident #13:

- a) Resident had a fire on his property when Public Utilities lines dropped into high weeds on adjacent land. Two years later that land is overgrown again. Could be a problem at Strong and Main.**

Code Compliance officers inspected the site and notified the property owner, who has not complied with the clean-up order. Legal proceedings have been initiated which will allow the City in July to clean the site and bill the owner. For further information, contact Senior Code Compliance Officer Chris Pullin at (951) 826-5685.

- b) Homeless living in vacant houses at the former spring location. Big fire danger.**

When there are people trespassing, please call the police before the problem gets larger. There are several homes on Strong Street that are vacant and open that have become havens for transients displaced from other locations. Code Enforcement has been to the locations and officers are contacting the developer to either complete demolitions expeditiously or fence and board the locations to restrict persons from entering.

- b) Columbia was supposed to be designed for all the truckers to go to the freeway; today the trucks are coming in on Main Street. Why can't we enforce the Columbia truck route?**

Main Street is a four-lane arterial street with entrance/exit ramps to State Route 60. Trucks cannot be banned from using arterial streets. To improve safety around Fremont Elementary School, a Walk Safe Drive Smart Review was recently conducted. The Streets Division will be refreshing pavement markings, crosswalks and installing high-visibility school crossing signs in the vicinity of the school. If you have further questions, you may call Traffic Engineer Fran Dunajski at (951) 826-5366.

d) Housing. More development is straining schools.

Additional development proposals for infill or underutilized sites is likely to occur within the Northside area. The City's General Plan 2025, which is currently in the public hearing stage, takes into consideration the potential impacts of additional development, City wide, establishing goals, policies and objectives to minimize the impacts of this new development to the greatest degree possible. The General Plan 2025 may be viewed on line at the City's web site www.RiversideCa.gov or a copy can be obtained at City Hall, in the Planning Division.

Riverside Unified School District is currently acquiring land for Patricia Beatty Elementary on Strong Street. At the middle school level, RUSD is in the process of adding a wing to Central Middle School. The number of high school students is anticipated to be small and would not rate a new school, though some portable classrooms may need to be added. For more information, please contact Dianne Pavia, Manager of Communications and Public Relations, Riverside Unified School District, at (951) 788-1013.

e) Loud music, boom-boom cars could be drug delivery cars, according to the kids; resident is concerned about a certain corner after dark.

Police have also heard this, as a rumor, and have consulted with the expert narcotics officers, who cannot substantiate it as true. Loud music emanating from vehicles in and of itself is a violation of California Vehicle Code 27007, which restricts amplified music that can be heard more than 50 feet from a vehicle on the roadway. This is a violation that the officers can and do enforce when they hear the violation and see the vehicle that it is coming from. The problem is, the officer must be there to cite when this violation occurs. For more information, contact Riverside Police Area North Commander Lt. Chuck Griffiths at (951) 351-6045.

Resident #14:

We need to get rid of air pollution.

Please see the response to Resident #12

Resident #15:

There are weeds about four feet high about 20 feet from house and is worried about the fire hazard.

The Strong Street property in question was inspected by Code Compliance officers, several violations were noted and enforcement action has begun. The identified property has a compliance date of July 7. The site will be reinspected for compliance with orders at that time. For more information contact Code Compliance Officer Chris Pullin at (951) 826-5685.

Resident #16:

People are not being notified with enough time about meetings.

The City Council agenda is posted at City Hall on the Thursday before the Tuesday meeting and on the City's website by Friday afternoon. If a member of the public is interested in receiving a weekly copy of the agenda, the City Clerk asks that they provides a small supply of self-addressed stamped envelopes. The Clerk sends out various public hearing notices 10 days before scheduled

hearings to affected property owners; notices are also published in the Press Enterprise. For more information contact Assistant City Clerk Sherry Morton-Ellis at (951) 826-5557.

The Planning Department mails a notice of Planning Commission hearings to property owners within 300 feet of a project, and to the chair of the Northside Improvement Association, when there is an item relative to the Northside.

The annual schedule for Mayor's Night Out is advertised on the City website and monthly meetings are advertised in the Press-Enterprise, through local schools and community groups.

The only meeting that Office of Neighborhoods does notification for is the monthly Riverside Neighborhood Partnership meeting. The chair/contact person for all City registered neighborhood associations is mailed the agenda and minutes each month. This mailing is to representatives of groups rather than individuals, who are not actively engaged in a neighborhood association. RNP meetings are also posted on the website and outside of City Hall 72 hours in advance. RNP meets the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Mayor's Ceremonial Room. The chair of the Northside Improvement Association gets notification as well as any neighborhood associations and neighborhood watches in the area.

The Riverside Neighborhood Partnership has three members that are responsible for sharing info back into the Northside Neighborhood. The neighborhood is currently under-represented; NIA members are encouraged to run for a seat on the RNP board at the Neighborhood Conference on July 9 at California Baptist University. More info: <http://www.riversideca.gov/neighborhoods/>

If you have any other questions please contact Office of Neighborhood Manager Eva Yakutis McNiel at (951) 826-5191.

Resident #17:

Resident is having a problem with noise. Under the General Plan revision, corner of Poplar and Orange. Orange has a lot of noise since putting in stop sign. Seems to be preferred route for emergency vehicles. Why, in the last three months, have there been more sirens? Bar noise is loud. Having trouble getting police to adequately response. Freeway construction, new embankment puts noise (former Club Temptations location) putting noise into the neighborhood.

One of the ramifications of installing stop signs is the increase in noise and exhaust pollution at the location. That is why the signatures of all corner residents are required before installation. The noise level with the stop sign is probably still at the same levels however since traffic must start and stop, it remains in the area longer than prior to the stop sign. For more information contact Traffic Engineer Fran Dunajski at (951) 826-5366.

Orange is a preferred route to the areas north of the freeway for any vehicle. Sirens being heard in that area are likely from Fire and Ambulance responses for calls in the north end of the area. As a general rule Police units do not roll with the lights and sirens activated except under extreme emergencies. For more information, contact Riverside Police Area North Commander Lt. Chuck Griffiths at (951) 351-6045.

Noise abatement along state and interstate highways, as well as the details of interchange reconstruction, is the responsibility of Caltrans. For more information on the highway work, call Caltrans toll-free at 1 (800) 60-91-215 or on the Internet at www.6091215.dot.ca.gov .

b) Resident has a child care facility in the home and is worried about there being a predator in the neighborhood.

Anyone that has access to the Internet via the computer can access the web site that lists the registered sex offenders, their descriptions, in most cases their photograph, home address and the offense that they committed to be required to be registered under 290 of the Penal Code. The web site is www.meganslaw.ca.gov. As far as what to do to protect your children, this is the first step, knowledge to power. Know who is living in your neighborhood and tell your other neighbors.

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c) Please enforce city code regarding cars parking on the ground and leaking fluids into the water-table.

The discharge of automotive fluids, including oil, transmission fluid, and radiator fluid, to the street, curb and gutter can potentially carry significant penalties. The discharge of the fluids is a violation of Riverside Municipal Code, Section 14.12.295 Prohibited Surface Discharges, the State of California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, Division 7, Chapter 5.5, Section 13376, the Federal Clean Water Act, 40 CFR, Parts 122-124 and the City's Storm Water NPDES Permit. If the act is intentional, then criminal action may be taken which can carry significant monetary penalties.

Occasional drips of fluid from a vehicle do not constitute a significant violation. Most vehicles drip fluids occasionally without resulting in environmental harm or jeopardizing the public's safety. Only when the drips begin to accumulate and create "ponds" of fluid or even flowing liquids, is when enforcement actions will be taken. If you have further questions, you may call Public Works Industrial Waste Supervisor Dion Castro at 351-6140.

The responses to this and other recent Mayor's Night Out are available on the Internet at:
<http://www.riversideca.gov/mayor/nightout.htm>

For non-emergency assistance, call the City of Riverside CallCenter at (951) 826-5311